Driving skills of truck drivers in Delhi

5380. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report has appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 26th April, 2002 that most truck drivers lack driving skills in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of drivers have acquired licenses from the neighbouring States without proper training;

(c) what is the check on these unfit and half cooked erring drivers who violate the norms as is the case of Lodi Road accident; and

(d) whether any authority has ever gone into such incidents, if so, the recommendations made and the action taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subject matter relates to Government of NCT of Delhi. No such records is available with this Ministry.

(c) Drivers found violating traffic rules and regulations can be prosecuted by the enforcement agencies of the State Government for various categories of offences under provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Driving licenses can also be revoked/suspended/cancelled. Further, the introduction of smart card based driving licenses is also expected to act as a check.

(d) The matter falls under the purview of state Government of NCT of Delhi.

Construction of NH-57

†5381. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the upto date status of construction of National Highways No. 57;

(b) the details of the amount spent on the scheme and the work done during 2001-2002;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the soil-test and other action being taken with regard to making a bridge over Koshi river under this scheme;

(d) the estimated amount to be incurred on the scheme during the current financial year; and

(e) the target to complete the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Four laning of National Highway No. 57 is included under East-West Corridor of National Highway Development Project. The total length of this NH is 295 km. which include a missing link of about 70 km. length between Phulparas & Forbesganj. In the mean time improvement of riding quality in a length of 175 km has been carried out. Development works including construction of 9 bridges and renewal in a length of about 15 km at a cost of about Rs. 6 crores are in progress.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1106.48 lakhs has been incurred on development and Periodical Renewal works on this NH during 2001-2002. In addition an expenditure of Rs. 92.00 lakhs has been done for ordinary maintenance/Flood damage repair works.

(c) and (d) The work of model studies in connection with siting of proposed bridge across river Koshi has been entrusted to Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune at an estimated cost of Rs. 41.61 lakhs. Estimate for collection of requisite survey and hydraulic data required for the model studies has also been sanctioned for Rs. 30.34 lakhs. The model studies are targeted to be completed by December 2002.

(e) The target date of completion of NHDP project including four laning of NH-57 and major bridge across river Koshi is Dec. 2007.

Utilisation of fund for NH allocated to MP and Chhattisgarh

†5382. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the roads declared as National Highways in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, indicating length of each road;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.